



Pennsylvania Agricultural Statistics Service

2301 North Cameron Street, Room G-19

Harrisburg, PA 17110-9405

Marc Tosiano, State Statistician



717-787-3904

Fax: 717-782-4011

nass-pa@nass.usda.gov

www.usda.gov/nass

A field office of USDA's National Agricultural Statistics Service in cooperation with the Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture

Weekly Crop & Weather Roundup

For The Week Ending May 11, 2003

Fair week for Field Work: There were 3 days suitable for field work. Soil moisture was rated as 1 percent very short, 6 percent short, 57 percent adequate and 36 percent surplus. Principal farm activities included planting oats, corn, soybeans and vegetables; repairing and replacing fences; spreading manure; spreading lime and fertilizer; caring for livestock; spraying fruit; and attending meetings.

Crops: Rain and hail across Pennsylvania prevented most farmers from doing any significant amount of field work. Despite this, the percent of spring plowing advanced to 72 percent complete, a 9 percent increase over last week but 5 percent behind 2002. The percent of oats planted advanced slightly to 86 percent complete, up 7 percent from last week. The percent of oats planted was still ahead of both the 2002 and five-year average values by 7 and 1 percent, respectively. Weather conditions promoted oat emergence. Fifty-eight percent of oats emerged, up 23 percent from last week but still slightly behind 2002 and the five-year average. The oat crop condition improved as well, with 2 percent rated as very poor, 39 percent poor, 52 percent good and 7 percent excellent. Despite poor weather conditions, percent of corn planted advanced to 41 percent complete, 8 percent behind last year and 5 percent behind the five-year average. Corn emerged increased slightly to 9 percent, lagging far behind both 2002 and the five-year average. The corn crop condition was rated as 34 percent fair, 54 percent good and 12 percent excellent. The condition of the winter wheat crop changed very little, with 1 percent rated as very poor, 4 percent poor, 20 percent fair, 55 percent good and 20 percent excellent. As with the condition, the percent of wheat headed changed little from last week, with 15 percent headed. Winter wheat progress lagged behind 2002 and the five-year average by 28 and 9 percent, respectively. Unlike winter wheat, the percent of barley headed increased significantly, to 51 percent headed. Although this value was 18 percent ahead of last week, it was still 29 percent behind 2002 and 22 percent behind the five-year average. Even with the increased precipitation and warm temperatures, alfalfa and timothy clover conditions changed very little. The alfalfa stand was rated 3 percent poor, 20 percent fair, 59 percent good and 18 percent excellent. The timothy clover stand was rated 4 percent poor, 27 percent fair, 63 percent good and 6 percent excellent.

Livestock: Although rain slowed field work, it helped improve the condition of pasture land. Six percent of pasture land was rated as poor,

26 percent was fair, 53 percent was good and 15 percent was excellent.

Fruit & Vegetables: Nearly all peach trees have reached the full bloom stage. Eighty-three percent of cherry trees have reached the pink stage and 81 percent have reached the full bloom stage, both slightly ahead of the five-year average. Ninety-five percent of apple trees have reached the pink stage while 93 percent of them have reached the full bloom stage. As was observed with peach trees, these values are about 20 percent ahead of the five-year averages. Thirty-five percent of potatoes have been planted, 17 percent behind 2002 and 12 percent behind the five-year average.

U.S. As Of May 4, 2003: Seasonal rains continued in the Pacific Northwest. Dry conditions dominated from southern California to the Texas Panhandle and Oklahoma. The Southeast was relatively dry with localized showers. Warm, sunny conditions allowed for an increase in fieldwork. Rain fell much of the week in the central Great Plains and across the Corn Belt. Farther north, dry conditions dominated in the northern Great Plains and upper Mississippi Valley. Above normal temperatures and below normal precipitation enabled producers to make excellent planting progress. Concern over fields drying out were alleviated by a late-week storm. The Ohio Valley had a warm, dry week conducive to field work, and Pennsylvania saw the best week of the season in terms of number of days suitable for fieldwork. Corn: Planting was 55 percent complete, 14 percentage points ahead of last year's pace and 9 points ahead of the 5-year average. The crop was 13 percent emerged, 2 points ahead of last year and equal to the 5-year average. Most of the Corn Belt made good planting progress during the week despite sporadic showers, with most States advancing well ahead of their 5-year average pace. Favorable conditions in the upper Great Plains, upper Mississippi Valley, and Ohio Valley allowed planting to accelerate rapidly. Above normal temperatures and adequate topsoil moisture in most areas aided emergence. Winter Wheat: Thirty-nine percent of the Nation's winter wheat was headed, 3 percentage points ahead of last year's pace, and 4 points ahead of the 5-year average. Warm, sunny conditions in many States allowed heading to increase rapidly. Soybeans: Planting was 11 percent complete, 4 percentage points ahead of last year and equal to the 5-year average. Delta growers also made significant planting progress. Small grains: The barley crop was 56 percent seeded, compared with last year's 35 percent and the 5-year average of 49 percent. The crop was 25 percent emerged, 13 percentage points ahead of last year and 4 points above the 5-year average. The oat crop was 73 percent seeded and 37 percent emerged. Planting was ahead of last year's pace of 56 percent seeded, while emergence was 9 points ahead of last year's pace. Producers in the central Great Plains continued to seed small grains despite occasionally heavy showers. Farther north, small grain seeding advanced rapidly during the week in the Dakotas due to warm, dry conditions. Conditions also favored planting in the Ohio Valley, Great Lakes region, and upper Mississippi Valley.

PA Crop Progress for Week Ending May 11, 2003

Crop	Current Week	Last Year	5-Year Average
	Percent		
Spring plowing	72	77	77
Corn, planted	41	49	46
Corn, emerged	9	21	14
Barley, headed	51	80	73
Winter wheat, headed	15	43	24
Oats, planted	86	79	85
Oats, emerged	58	67	60
Soybeans, planting	13	7	12
Potatoes, planted	35	52	47
Peaches, full bloom	98	1	78
Cherries, pink stage	83	0	79
Cherries, full bloom	81	0	79
Apples, pink stage	95	0	76
Apples, full bloom	93	0	72

PA Crop Condition for Week Ending May 11, 2003

Crop	Very Poor	Poor	Fair	Good	Excellent
	Percent				
Corn	0	0	34	54	12
Winter wheat	1	4	20	55	20
Oats	0	2	39	52	7
Alfalfa stand	0	3	20	59	18
Timothy clover stand	0	4	27	63	6
Pasture conditions	0	6	26	53	15

Weather Data For Week Ending May 11, 2003

STATION	LAST WEEK WEATHER SUMMARY						April 1, 03 - May 11, 03					GDD BASE 40F TOT
	TEMPERATURE			PRECIPITATION			PRECIPITATION			GDD BASE 50F		
	HI	LO	AVG	DFN	TOTAL	DAYS	TOTAL	DFN	DAYS	TOTAL	DFN	
NORTHWEST												
Erie	77	44	57	+4	0.82	5	3.47	-0.91	13	158	+71	401
Franklin_AG	75	42	58	+5	1.98	7	5.02	+0.21	23	174	+88	462
Meadville	75	45	57	+5	2.01	6	5.25	+0.69	14	162	+94	442
Mercer	77	38	57	+3	1.54	6	3.81	-0.79	14	163	+73	441
Springboro	77	36	56	+3	1.75	5	5.53	+1.28	19	146	+52	396
Warren	78	39	58	+4	1.09	5	3.94	-0.91	17	139	+62	399
NORTH CENTRAL												
Bradford_Regi on	73	37	55	+5	0.57	5	4.15	-0.55	19	143	+98	385
Empori um	79	41	58	+7	0.98	6	4.37	-0.52	21	170	+117	456
Kane	73	36	51	+1	0.67	4	3.61	-1.38	16	51	+8	244
Laporte	73	37	55	+2	0.41	3	3.63	-0.96	20	104	+7	332
Lock_Haven	76	43	58	+4	1.01	6	3.60	-0.69	21	202	+93	503
Port_Al legany	77	36	55	+4	0.31	3	3.12	-1.24	14	112	+52	350
Renovo	78	43	58	+4	1.60	6	3.73	-0.56	22	193	+84	489
Ri dgway	75	39	55	+5	2.17	6	4.13	-0.76	19	119	+66	381
Stevenson_Dam	78	42	58	+8	1.53	7	4.56	-0.33	23	153	+100	436
Towanda	74	37	55	+1	0.61	6	3.67	-0.44	23	114	+16	367
Wel l sboro	76	36	54	+4	0.56	2	3.22	-0.18	15	111	+64	339
Wi l l iamsport_AP	76	43	59	+2	0.64	5	3.57	-0.95	19	216	+70	517
NORTHEAST												
Haw l ey	74	32	54	+2	0.68	4	3.00	-1.80	16	89	+29	334
Wi l kes-Barre/Sc	76	42	58	+3	0.40	3	2.82	-1.36	19	205	+86	485
Susquehanna	76	37	57	+6	0.31	3	4.54	-0.47	17	126	+74	386
WEST CENTRAL												
Butl er	76	45	60	+6	2.64	6	4.29	-0.26	18	226	+121	541
New_Castl e	82	42	60	+6	2.34	5	4.51	+0.31	15	235	+142	553
Sl i pper y_Rock	78	46	59	+6	2.38	6	5.12	+0.77	15	231	+150	546
CENTRAL												
Al toona/Bl ai r_C	74	43	58	+3	1.23	6	3.38	-1.00	25	235	+102	530
Du_Boi s	73	42	57	+3	1.84	6	4.69	+0.03	22	204	+118	486
Lewi stown	78	44	58	+1	2.33	6	4.20	-0.10	18	233	+69	544
Mi ddl etown	77	44	60	+1	1.46	5	4.42	-0.28	20	248	+55	564
Pr i nce_Gal l i tzi	75	42	59	+6	2.59	6	4.80	-1.09	16	199	+121	470
Sel i nsgrove	74	42	58	+2	0.56	6	3.70	-0.76	23	180	+51	475
State_Col l ege_P	76	43	59	+4	1.34	5	4.02	-0.08	20	226	+110	523
EAST CENTRAL												
Al l entown-Bethl	83	39	58	+1	0.43	5	2.52	-2.46	19	204	+52	502
Lehi ghton	83	39	56	-2	0.63	4	2.58	-2.19	20	149	+6	426
Matamoras	77	34	53	-4	0.32	2	1.94	-3.56	16	98	-16	341
Tobyhanna	78	40	55	+5	0.71	3	3.75	-1.93	16	159	+117	437
SOUTHWEST												
Pi t t sburgh/Al l e	75	48	63	+7	2.81	5	5.94	+1.28	19	347	+212	691
Derry	76	48	60	+6	2.70	6	5.44	+0.78	23	246	+144	543
Meyersdal e	72	42	56	+2	3.34	6	6.78	+1.29	23	139	+36	401
Mount_Pl easant	74	48	62	+9	3.03	6	5.74	+0.18	23	248	+170	567
Pi t t sburgh_Intl	76	49	63	+7	2.68	7	5.14	+0.78	20	334	+183	673
Rector	76	44	61	+8	2.80	6	5.45	-0.11	20	242	+164	554
Waynesburg	76	47	62	+7	4.55	6	7.34	+2.51	21	267	+146	597
SOUTH CENTRAL												
Bi gl er vi l l e	80	42	58	-2	1.60	6	5.25	+0.57	23	231	+38	546
Everett	80	43	59	+4	2.49	6	6.94	+2.29	26	210	+90	517
Hanover	80	41	59	-1	2.35	6	5.08	+0.40	20	236	+43	553
Shi ppensburg	81	43	59	-2	1.28	5	4.39	-0.08	21	253	+51	577
South_Mountai n	76	41	57	+1	2.11	6	5.82	+1.44	22	172	+44	446
York_AP	79	44	59	+0	1.60	5	3.73	-1.14	21	244	+45	559
SOUTHEAST												
Green_Lane	84	38	59	+3	0.45	5	3.33	-1.85	22	224	+84	538
Hamburg	80	39	57	+2	0.45	5	2.96	-2.54	18	206	+100	505
Hopewell	81	38	57	-3	0.70	5	3.42	-1.78	18	179	-26	467
Lancaster_AP	79	39	58	+1	1.22	5	3.80	-0.95	18	212	+56	520
Neshami ny_Fal l s	82	38	56	-3	1.04	6	3.53	-2.07	21	210	+58	514
New_Hol l and	78	44	58	+0	0.77	5	3.30	-1.45	17	205	+49	506
Phi l adel phi a	82	45	60	-1	0.51	5	3.08	-1.89	17	298	+82	633
Phi l adel phi a_NE	81	38	58	-3	1.55	4	4.01	-0.96	18	247	+31	566
Readi ng_AP	81	41	59	+2	0.51	5	2.92	-2.43	20	235	+95	539
Val l ey_Forge_Na	82	35	56	-4	1.32	5	3.51	-1.69	16	172	-33	466
Wi l l ow_Grove	79	41	58	+1	0.29	4	2.09	-3.51	16	233	+81	539

DFN = Departure From Normal (Using 1961-90 Normals Period).
Precipitation (Rainfall or melted snow/ice) and Pan Evap in inches.
Precipitation Days = Days with precip of .01 inch or more.
Air Temperatures in Degrees Fahrenheit.



INTERNET REPORTERS' COMMENTS, By County:

*Reporters are from Extension Service, Natural Resources Conservation Service,
Farm Service Agency, farmers, commodity specialists, or other knowledgeable individuals.*

"Rain during the week and weekend slowed much of the field work. The rains definitely helped the pastures and hay fields. Farmers are back fixing equipment and mending fences until the weather breaks."

- Ron McCorkle, Crawford County

"Most fields remained too wet to resume corn and/or soybean planting. Hay and pastures have really grown with cool, wet weather."

- Lew Steckler, Erie County

"Crops including oats, wheat, and hay are starting to grow due to the weather conditions. The warm temperatures and rain were greatly welcome. The four county area received up to three inches plus throughout the week. Pasture conditions are improving also. Many young stock are going on pastures due to limited feed along with cows. Forest County had hail on Tuesday; looked like snow on the ground."

- Thomas Tanner,
Clarion/Venango/Forest/Warren Counties

"Rain slowed field operations to a crawl by midweek. We needed the rain, but now we could use a few sunny days to get things back on track."

- Wes Ramsey, Warren County

"Plowing, applying pesticides, planting potatoes and cole crops."

- John Esslinger, Lackawanna County

"Lots of showers this week, ranging from light to severe showers. One evening it hailed the size of large peas, lasting about five minutes. In that amount of time the ground was white from the hail. Not a lot of field work done because of the rains. Just as it would clear up another storm would pass."

- Dolly Little, Cambria County

"Poor week for field work. Orchardgrass and alfalfa have been ready for harvest but none harvested due to weather limitations. Lots of corn planting early in the week but that stopped with poor soil conditions following storms/showers. Excellent emergence of earliest planted corn. Few alfalfa weevils above threshold control levels in vast majority of fields. Producers waiting for hay harvesting weather."

- Paul H. Craig, Dauphin County

"This week 3.12 inches of rain accumulated. Want more rain tonight and Sunday. Rain has helped with grass and rye, but too wet to do anything. Hope rye can be cut this week or it will be too far in head."

- Marina K., Huntington County

"Wet soil conditions continue to push grass and alfalfa growth. We saw the first orchardgrass heads this week. Soil conditions are too wet for corn and alfalfa planting."

- Greg Hostetter, Juniata County

"Wet, wet and more wet, rain gauge a little over three inches this past week. Checked alfalfa strips with southern exposure had a little weevil damage; to high to spray to wet to make. Hopefully we'll have some cool dry weather."

- Dave Stetler, Juniata County

"We have had ½ inch of rain this past week."

- Viola Pfleegor, Northumberland County

"Rain fell each day last week, effectively cancelling all field work."

- David L. Swartz, Perry County

"Very rainy conditions, bad for field work."

- Danadee M. Miller-Boyle,
Carbon/Monroe Counties

Comments continued on next page.

“Weather conditions here were very wet and temperatures were below normal.”

- Ken Soldano, Somerset County

“A very soggy week has brought some much needed rain to the area. However, it was too much rain in a short period of time. We received five plus inches of rain in six days, with an inch to an inch and a half each day of the week. It has halted field work for the week, but we're glad to see that it can still rain.”

- Tom Sierzega, Washington County

“Wet week with very little progress on field work. The warm and wet weather has made for excellent growing conditions. Most growers have made good planting progress during the dry period over the past several weeks so this week's rain was very welcome.”

- John Lohr, Westmoreland County

“Scattered showers and thunderstorms all week made it impossible to do anything but possibly cut haylage in drier fields, or spray no till fields.”

- Ann Marie Meyer, Fulton County

“Just messy all week.”

- Russ McLucas, Fulton County

“On and off rain this week kept field activities down. Some corn was planted before the rain early in the week and more tillage continued until more rain later in the week. Ryelage harvest is nearly complete and wheat is nearing flag leaf stage. Once again soil moistures are too wet to be planting, less than 10 percent of the corn is in and no soybeans are in.”

**- Andrew Frankenfield,
Montgomery County**

**PRESORTED
FIRST-CLASS MAIL
POSTAGE & FEES PAID
USDA
PERMIT NO. G-38**

**PENNSYLVANIA AGRICULTURAL
STATISTICS SERVICE
2301 North Cameron Street, Room G-19
Harrisburg, Pennsylvania 17110-9405
)))))))))
OFFICIAL BUSINESS
PENALTY FOR PRIVATE USE \$300**